

Silk Hat Harry's Escapades

Copyright, 1912, International News Service

Well, of Course, That's a Different Thing Again



(Creations of this noted cartoonist are regular features of The El Paso Herald.)

Gunboat Smith Must Whip Willard To Become Leading White Hope

By James J. Corbett
Former Heavyweight Champion of the World.

Willard, While Bungling at Times, Has Beaten Men of Enough Class to Entitle Him to Considerable Recognition, Is Belief.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—By beating Tommy Burns' highly touted fighter, Arthur Pelkey, Gunboat Smith has strengthened his position as one of the leaders of the heavy-weight division. But until he disposes of big Jess Willard the press and public will hardly concede him the title of white champion.

Willard in knocking out the Buffalo aspirant, One Round Davis, and more recently George Rodel, the Boer, has gone his share in bringing the white hope situation to a point where a battle between Smith and himself will satisfactorily determine the question of the best big man in American pugilism. In the game, at times he shapes up as the best big man who has been uncovered in the past three years, and at others his work is decidedly mediocre. But the same thing can also be said of his rival, the Gunboat. Smith shows flashes of real class now and then, and also pulls an occasional performance that makes him look like an eligible for the "homehead" club. Against Carl Morris the Gunboat fought like the veriest amateur. He must have known that his rushes against a man outweighing him 35 pounds would hardly help his chances. Still every round found him taking a wooden collar with the gigantic Oklahoman, and gradually growing weaker from the efforts it cost him. Finally, and it was apparently a lucky thing for Mr. Morris, the eagle-eyed referee caught Smith hitting below the belt and stopped further proceedings. Very fortunate for the gunboat, judging from appearances. If ever a boxer looked ready to lay down and curl up for the rest of the evening Gunboat Smith was the man.

Weight Is Morris' Best Asset. Strange that while Carl Morris is regarded as a big dub who will never know enough of the finer points of the game to get him anything, he manages to give the leading hopes an awful time when they get in the ring with him. He was fast wearing Smith down when he pulled the "bone" and struck the gunner amidships. Not for punishment had administered with his fists, for Carl, while possessing a pair of muscular arms, never seems to know what to do with them—but simply by force of superior weight and bulk, by leaning on his smaller opponent whenever the opportunity offered—which was half a dozen times or more in each round.

And when he fought with Willard a few weeks later Jess fought his worst battle. It looked to me at the time that Willard could have ended the affair almost any time he cared to, but he refused to extend himself. Now and then he cut loose with a few healthy wallops and on each occasion it looked like "curtains" for Morris. But Willard

would fail to follow up his advantages, seemingly content to win on points. Evidently the newspaper criticism leveled at him must have had its effect, however, for he has won two battles with knockouts since then, stopping One Round Davis in six times and the tough Boer Rodel in nine rounds.

Really After Carpenter.

The Gunboat now announces that he is going ahead after Jack Johnson. If he does take the trip it will probably be in search of easier game. George Carpenter is the man he is really after. The champion, even were that man in the mood to consider challenges, while such a soft proposition as monsieur Carpenter awaits.

Willard's enormous bulk, his mighty punch, and a very good defense make him look the class of the white division in spite of the fact that Smith has a decision over him in a 20 round bout. San Francisco critics who reported the fight refused to endorse the decision of the referee, insisting that the worst the giant should have been handed was a draw verdict.

I doubt if there is a white heavy in the game who can decisively defeat Willard. Jess might not tick the Gunboat, but it is extremely doubtful whether the gunner could defeat him either. If Willard can be taught to realize that fighting is a business, and inject a little more aggressiveness into his style of milking, I will not be surprised to see him clean up all opposition, not excepting the formidable Samuel Langford, otherwise known as the "white hope destroyer."

Willard Lacks Fighting Spirit.

Willard has almost everything needed except the fighting spirit. It remains to be seen whether he can be taught that important part of the game. If he can be taught to become the champion of the world in the course of another year or two.

As for Pelkey, he simply will not do. I was not surprised at Smith's victory, although disappointed at the length of time it took. There is nothing in Arthur's record on which one could figure him to win over the hard hitting Gunboat. The unfortunate accident which resulted in Luther McCarthy's death last May gave Pelkey undeserved notoriety and placed him in a position to demand a match with the best of the other fellows. But it seems to me that Tommy Burns did not use very good judgment in putting Arthur against the Gunner for the first crack out of the box in seven months. Since the McCarthy affair Pelkey had not been in the ring except on friendly exhibition with his sparring partner or in training for the Smith match. A bout or two with men below the Smith grade would have helped him. A great deal more than all the practice stunts.

For according to report, the Gunboat

did not cover himself with glory by his victory. He was very wild and it was through Pelkey's lack of ability and endurance than to Smith's skill that success finally perched on the latter's banner.

Knockouts Feature of Opening Fight.

The new year was begun auspiciously in pugilism. There were probably two score of more or less important bouts held in different sections of the country, and knockouts featured the majority of the battles. It was a great day for the lads with the wallop. The punch triumphed in many instances over superior skill and cleverness.

Young Fox, an English bantam the veteran George McDonald brought to this country in search of fame and fortune, has made quite a hit with local fans, and the critics are touting him as a worthy opponent for Johnny Coulton and Kid Williams.

English Bantam Shows Class.

Fox has twice performed in local rings. He easily defeated Joe Mooney, a fairly clever youngster with a corking good punch, and Kid Herman, the Pickin, Illinois, bantam, was his second victim. Fox outpointed both boys in such masterly style that there was no doubt of his superiority.

Kid Gibson, the matchmaker for the Madison Square Garden club, is trying to land champion Coulton for the Britisher. Experts are praising Fox as one of the best bantams England has ever sent to this country, and that is saying a whole lot for the "light little" who has shipped us many a clever fellow in past years.

HEFTY RUSSIAN IS OUT TO WRESTLE

New York, Jan. 10.—Does any one wish to wrestle with a cute little Russian, who tips the beam at a scanty 265 pounds? Ivan Manutoff, who hails from the land of the czar, has offered to wrestle Fred Beal the American ex-champion, who returned to the mat game, and to give Beal \$10 per minute for every minute that the latter is able to keep his shoulders off the ground. Although Beal weighs but 180 pounds, much less than the giant Cossack, he is thinking of taking up the offer and says that he has an idea he can bankrupt the Russian at that.

PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY TO PLAY ATHLETICS MARCH 30-31

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 10.—The University of Pennsylvania will play two games with the Athletics at Shibe park before the opening of the regular baseball season for the world's champs. The games are scheduled for March 30 and 31, and the collections were forced to close games with other colleges in order to take on Connie Mack's aggregation.

SAYS GIANTS WILL CAPTURE PENNANT

Secretary Foster of Giants Thinks It's a Sure Proposition; Cites Strength of the Lineup.

New York, Jan. 10.—John B. Foster, Giants' secretary, declared today in his most positive manner that the big fellows are going to cap the pennant sure next summer, making the fourth time. He's so sure about it because he knows, for one thing, they'll have the best team in five years—or ever, as far as that goes.

"We are stronger in every department than last season," said Foster. "The pitching staff which McGraw has built up is a wonder. In spite of the fact that several of our big pitching four did not show up particularly well in the world series, Mathewson, Marquard, Tesreau and Demaree form the best pitching quartet possessed by any team in the country."

Tesreau had an off year last season, and will be lots better next season. Demaree also should improve with a year's experience under his belt. Fromme will undoubtedly be a great deal better next season. He got off to a bad beginning in Cincinnati last season and never could get properly started.

"However, our young pitchers should be greatly in the limelight next season. We have a wonderful prospect in Schauer, while Schupp, Hearne and Palmero are also likely to come through with lots of stuff."

"Meyers and McLean are the best pair of catchers in baseball. Our infield should be much stronger than it was last season when Morkle and Doyle had off years."

"I cannot see another team in the National league that has been strengthened enough to beat us out. Philadelphia has a bunch of hard hitters, but they are slow on bases, and their only pitchers are Alexander and Seaton. Carey is the entire Pittsburgh outfield while the Cubs will be no stronger than they were last season. I do not see how any one can beat us, and I firmly believe that the 1912 Giants will shatter the old hoodoo, and win four straight championships."

DAN O'LEARY PROPOSES 1000 MILE WALKING RACE

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 10.—Dan O'Leary, veteran walker, is promoting a 1000 mile straightaway walking race at Los Angeles, Cal., and he wants Henry Mosier of this city to enter. The invitation is like the call of a siren to Henry and he may accept. Henry has been out of the game for some years, but he thinks he can still reel off the yards with the best of them.

However, his enthusiasm is tempered by cautiousness now. He says before he will accept O'Leary's invitation he will have to see something more tangible than a promise of cash. A little of the real money placed in Henry's mitt would be real tempting.

Gunboat Smith May Go to Europe



Matty May Be All Right in Baseball; as a Golfer He's Almost Hopeless

Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 10.—Charles Van Loan who writes moving pictures and baseball stories, says that Christy Mathewson is hopeless as a golf player.

In a recent match with Van Loan, Christy and Charles brought up even to the 15th green in two. They had a couple of easy putts for the hole, when a flock of crows swooped down on the green and refused to scatter after Mathewson and Van Loan had yelled the conventional "Shoo" several times. This was too much for the renowned Matty and picking up his golf ball he sent a terrific inshoot into the midst of the flock, which then flew away.

Van Loan and his friend gazed with speechless horror as Mathewson turned to them for their approval. Matty did not know that he had violated a rule of golf, the game in which rules are almost as sacred as the tablets of Moses. Van Loan then holed out and won the game.

"At that, I nearly hit one of those birds," said Matty afterwards.

One thousand bargains in stock. Lander Lumber Co.—Advertisement.

Gunboat Smith, the slashing light heavyweight, whose recent defeat of Arthur Pelkey all but put the entire American white hope crop out of existence, Jim Buckley, the Gunboat's manager, is contemplating a trip to Europe for the far with a view to matching him up with Georges Carpentier, the French boxer, whose countrymen call him the coming champion of the world. He may also fight Jack Johnson.

GREAT BANKRUPT SALE

The OLD ENGLAND CLOTHING STORE'S BANKRUPT STOCK of Men's Clothing, Furnishings and Shoes has been scooped in by S. L. Alpern at 45 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR and will be placed on sale commencing

Monday Morning, January 12th, at 9 o'clock

—THE STOCK CONSISTS OF—

MEN'S SUITS, OVERCOATS, PANTS, SHOES and a full line of Furnishings Goods

This will undoubtedly be the Bargain Event of the season. Everything must be sold in 30 days and the lowest prices will prevail to insure a grand clean up. Nothing will be held back. The best things will be shown Monday, so come prepared for the greatest bargains ever offered at

Opposite
Paso Del
Norte Hotel

BANKRUPT SALE
at the OLD ENGLAND CLOTHING STORE, cor. W. San Antonio and El Paso

Opposite
Paso Del
Norte Hotel